



SCHOOL BOOKING INFO 2026 (FACT 3s)

School Journey

Our unique centre is based on the converted Trinity House Lightvessel *Trinity*. *Trinity* is permanently moored in the centre of an internationally important tidal saltmarsh which Fellowship Afloat owns. The rhythm of the ever changing tides influence the daily programme and changes the pace of life to create a very special educational opportunity.

It is the ideal activity venue for individuals, youth clubs, schools, churches, people with special needs.

Located only 45 minutes from Junction 28 of the M25/A12, journey arrangements for schools are straightforward.

One of the chief activities is dinghy sailing and we are recognised by the Royal Yachting Association as a training centre. We are also registered with the Adventure Activities Licensing Authority. Ashore, our High Ropes course, climbing wall and archery have been very popular with groups. The area lends itself to estuary wildlife studies: dredging for benthos, saltmarsh studies, coastal defence projects and village community studies are examples of some of the many programme possibilities.

Our full-time staff team have a range of teaching, outdoor instructor and pastoral qualifications and experience. Our aim is to provide practical support in all areas from programme delivery to domestic arrangements and night-time supervision and care, to lighten the load on accompanying staff.

Our emphasis is upon fitting our resources to match your needs. We also have a Teachers' Resource Pack, full of ideas to plan programmes and preparatory work, which is available for download as a PDF. Please contact us for a link.

Organisation & programme design

We will contact you to tailor your programme to ensure that you get the most out of your visit. Each morning the FACT staff team and accompanying teachers meet together in the 'Lookout' to discuss the day's programme, what you hope to achieve from the day and who will be responsible for each activity. We also share a brief 'thought for the day' and a few informal prayers. During this time it will be necessary for you to have one or two staff/helpers overseeing the children's morning routine.

Our Residential Centre

Trinity can accommodate a total of 48 guests in 2, 4 & 5 berth cabins each with hand-basins and heating. We have modern showers and toilets onboard and the galley serves a saloon at the stern, which enjoys panoramic views of the saltmarsh and estuary. Four or five of our full-time staff are resident onboard.

Trinity's Development

A 7 year project to further develop, enlarge and improve *Trinity*, was completed between 2017-2024. The 'Trinity3' project was delivered over a number of phases and completed in the quieter winter periods. It's been quite an adventure! You can see more of the journey on our website.

The project was a £2m investment in equipping the centre to better serve our guests with life changing adventures.

The project provided the following improvements:

- increased guest accommodation from 36 to 48
- six new ensuite cabins (one of which is more accessible)
- a new layout for improved access through a helical staircase under the glazed light tower
- more, and enlarged breakout and meeting rooms
- a greener centre, with improved insulation, a heat pump system and solar panels.
- improved kit storage.

This development has been funded wholly through additional fundraising, and provides the most amazing centre for our guests to enjoy.

On-board Facilities

- *Toilets & Showers*. In addition to the toilets and showers for children, there are six staff ensuite cabins available and a single toilet and shower for use of visiting staff.
- *Bedding*. Foam pillows and pillow cases are provided for each individual. Available to staff only we have duvets; you will need to bring your own duvet covers, please let the centre know prior to arrival if accompanying staff would like a duvet and how many.
- *Tea & Coffee*. This is always available in the galley.
- *Washing machine & drying room*. Available for visitors - see a staff member for instructions.
- *Presentations*. A multi-media audio-visual system, alongside a flip chart and whiteboard, are available for use. FACT does not supply other stationery materials.
- *WiFi*. Available throughout the ship for the use of staff - see a FACT team member for details.

SCHOOL BOOKING INFO (CONTINUED)

Arrival and Welcome

On arrival, we will meet you in our car park and assist you with your luggage for the five minute walk to *Trinity*; just call 01621 868113 as you arrive in the village. After settling everyone in, we will have introductions and talk through the rules of the centre and safety aspects with the children.

Responsibility

During your visit, you will be looked after by both permanent staff and seasonal volunteers, all of whom are trained and familiar with life on board and the various specialist activities. Appropriate personal checks, which include a DBS Disclosure, are made on all new staff.

While at FACT, you are responsible for the care, safety and conduct of your students including administration of any medication or application of creams such as sun lotion.

At particular times - i.e. During specialist activities and studies - our staff will take the responsibility for the children's safety. Throughout the week they will assist in the running of your programme, providing local expert knowledge when appropriate, but would expect you to take the lead on follow-up work and supervising your group between activities and when they are being prepared.

If you are staying onboard overnight, we have a member of staff "on call". If you have any problems and need help, the on-call staff member is there to assist. There is an intercom phone situated in the cabin area. If you have any questions or difficulties then do speak to a member of our staff.

Smoking and the consumption of alcohol are not permitted on board.

Meal Times

You are invited to sit, along with our staff, amongst the children at meal times. We always wait for everyone to arrive for the meal before starting - even bleary-eyed in the morning: one of our staff will organise the saying of grace and introduce the serving arrangements. After the meal, a few notices will be announced. We encourage everyone to remain at the table until this point. Please ensure any special dietary requirements are told to us before your visit.

Daily Jobs

FACT thrives on enthusiastic participation of visitors and meal times are a focus for some essential but simple tasks:

- Laying tables for the meal
- Washing-up (with a dishwasher to assist)
- Vacuum cleaning the saloon
- Removing any rubbish and bringing back a few consumables to the centre.

We will organise the rota and look for the full support of accompanying staff.

Personal belongings & pocket money

We discourage the use of mobile phones, MP3 players and iPods etc on board: apart from the obvious distraction, they could get lost or broken. We have a small souvenir shop on board, items starting from 50p. We also have *Trinity* garments: T-shirts, baseball caps and hoodies, these range from £10.00 - £35.00. Sweets and drinks can be purchased in the village.

Suggested kit list

Suggested kit list is available in your pack or also available on our website at www.fact.org.uk/kitlist

Lost property

Please contact the FACT office within four weeks regarding lost property. After one month, any unclaimed items will be disposed of responsibly.

Bursary fund

FACT is committed to serving people whose financial means are limited. Our Bursary Fund is an easy and available way to enable such people to enjoy a residential course onboard. Do ask the office for details, which include the simple application form.

Programme evaluation

We are constantly striving to improve and develop the schools work we offer. At the end of your visit, we will ask you to fill in and return to us a feedback form with any comments and suggestions for the future.

Fellowship Afloat Charitable Trust

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